

A NEW GENERIC NAME IN THE POLYSPHINCTINE ICHNEUMONIDS
(HYMENOPTERA)

It has been found that the ichneumonid generic name *Laufeia* (Tosquinet, 1903. Mém. Soc. Ent. Belgique 10:381) is preoccupied because of its earlier use for a genus of salticid spiders (Simon, 1889. Ann. Soc. Ent. France (6) 8:248), so the new name *Dreisbachia* is hereby proposed to replace *Laufeia* Tosquinet. The new name is in honor of Mr. R. R. Dreisbach, whose collecting work has done much to make the North American ichneumonids better known.

The specific names to be referred to *Dreisbachia* are *Laufeia mira* Tosquinet, 1903 (Oriental Region, the type-species of both *Dreisbachia* and *Laufeia* Tosquinet); *Polysphincta stigmata* Uchida, 1941 (Japan); *Pimpla pictifrons* Thomson, 1877 (Europe); *Polysphincta slossonae* Davis, 1898 (Nearctic Region); and *Laufeia navajo* Townes, 1960 (Arizona and Honduras).—HENRY TOWNES, *Museum of Zoology, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.*

BOOK REVIEW

INSECT SOUNDS. By P. T. Haskell. 22.7 cm. Quadrangle Books, 119 West Lake St., Chicago 1, Ill., 1961. viii+189 pp., 97 figs. Price: \$5.75.

Dr. P. T. Haskell is a Deputy Director of the Anti-Loeust Research Centre in London, and he has contributed importantly to the literature of insect sounds prior to this book, which is one of a series by British authors entitled *Aspects of Zoology*.

Insect sounds have been of general interest to people since ancient times, but knowledge of them has been placed on a scientific basis largely during the past 20 years. The 1948 book on the songs of insects by G. W. Pierce, a Harvard physics professor, has been followed by such other comprehensive works as the 1954 Colloquium on the acoustics of Orthoptera, edited by Busnel; a 1958 summary of insect sounds (Ann. Rev. Ent., vol. 3), a 1960 bibliography (published by the Pennsylvania State Univ. Press), by Hubert and Mable Frings; and a 1960 A.I.B.S. symposium volume on animal sounds and communication, edited by Lanyon and Tavalga.

This convenient-sized book of good construction contains 7 chapters, the first dealing with the recording and analysis of insect sounds. Equipment used by current students is discussed, but unhappily not pictured. Other chapters deal with sound-producing mechanisms, hearing, song patterns, behavior, and some physiological aspects of acoustic behavior. The final chapter is a brief consideration of some broad aspects of some research accomplishments and goals. The large number of times that the ability to produce sounds has independently evolved in certain insect groups, the survival value of stridulation, the "social reactions" correlated with songs, and the practical aspects of applying the growing wealth of basic information to ecological problems are among the subjects mentioned.

Each chapter has its own bibliography, with titles omitted. While all details of the subject naturally can not be encompassed by this small book, it is a useful, critical, and challenging summary.—ASHLEY B. GURNEY, *Entomology Research Division, ARS, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*